

RESOLUTION
OF
THE LEGISLATURE OF INDIANA,

ASKING

Aid of the general government for the American Colonization Society.

MARCH 31, 1848.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

A JOINT RESOLUTION asking the aid of the general government for the American Colonization Society.

Whereas, while we deplore the existence of slavery in some of our sister States, not only as a moral, social, and political evil, but as incompatible with the sacred principles of civil and religious liberty upon which our government rests, and look upon it as a dark spot which impairs the otherwise beautiful picture of freedom which our country presents to the world, we claim no right and feel no desire to interfere or intermeddle with the institution as it exists in the slave States, trusting that the day is not far distant when the evil will be removed by those who are most deeply involved in its consequences. We are not, however, insensible to the difficulties with which any plan of negro emancipation is beset, yet we hail with pleasure the growing influence of the American Colonization Society in its noble scheme of removing those that are set free to the land of their forefathers, and giving to the heretofore oppressed a home and a country that they can call their own, and thereby plant our own free institutions in a territory hitherto enveloped in the most repulsive barbarism:

And whereas, while we should rejoice in the universal emancipation of the slave, we can never consent that Indiana shall be made the receptacle of the manumitted negroes of other States, as their color and character would forbid political and social equality, and their migration here could but be injurious to us and detrimental to them:

And whereas there are numerous persons that would emancipate their slaves if means were provided to remove them from the country; and in the opinion of this legislature, the general government could in no way more effectually aid in the extinction of the evils alluded to, than by assisting the Colonization Society in its philanthropic plan of transporting the colored man to Liberia: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That our Senators be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to aid the American Colonization Society in their great undertaking, by urging the

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passage of a law requiring the government of the United States to furnish transportation, free of cost, for all persons of color that may apply, through said society, to be removed to the republic of Liberia.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

WILLIAM A. PORTER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PARIS C. DUNNING,

President of the Senate.

Approved February 16, 1848.

JAMES WHITCOMB.